

The more than 26,000 residents of West Milford and their neighbors in surrounding communities rely on the post office for services from passport needs to mail delivery. Like most towns today, the mailman has become more than just a person in our neighborhood; he has become an integral part of the overall community. Under the able leadership of their Officer in Charge, Emil Cimorelli, the men and women who work at the West Milford Post Office have lived up to a high standard of excellence and community service. And, the special designation for which they are being honored today demonstrates that this excellence carries through not only to the customers of the facility, but also to the staff there.

A TRIBUTE TO HARVEY MASON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a masterful drummer and an all around great musician, Mr. Harvey Mason. Harvey Mason was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He began taking formal drum lessons at the age of 7, playing in school bands and finally buying his first drum set at age 16. Harvey Mason's talents were so captivating that an Atlantic City club owner obtained a special license allowing the teenager to play at the club hassle free.

Harvey Mason continued his education at Berklee School of Music, later going on to the New England Conservatory of Music and studied performance, composing, arranging, percussion and mallets on a full scholarship.

Harvey Mason toured Europe with the great Errol Garner before moving with his family to Los Angeles. He played with George Shearing and did one semester of practice teaching at Hoover High School in Glendale to complete his Bachelor's of Arts Degree. In 1986, Harvey went to Southwestern Law School and in 1988 to UCLA.

Harvey Mason's precision time keeping and versatility have placed him as one of the most in-demand and most recorded session drummers of all time. He has been hired by a host of recording artists including: Barbara Streisand; James Brown; Herbie Hancock; Reba McEntyre; Sergio Mendes; and the London Symphony Orchestra.

Harvey Mason signed a 5-year deal with Clive Davis at Arista Records in 1976 as a solo artist. There he recorded 5 stylistically diversified albums that captured the complete arc of his musical artistry. These albums showcased the writing, arranging, and performances by both A-list artists and gifted newcomers including: Earth, Wind and Fire; Kenny Loggins; and Marvin Gaye. He has also composed songs recorded by artists ranging from Donald Byrd to the Brothers Johnson. He added to his credits a television commercial for Mattel Toys and a percussion piece for Quincy Jones' "The Color Purple."

Harvey Mason is a founding member of the contemporary jazz group Fourplay, using this as a platform to flex his writing, playing and arranging skills with partners Bob James, Nathan East and Larry Carlton who later replaced Lee Ritenour.

The accomplishments of Harvey Mason are many. It is difficult to sum them all up in such

little time. However, today, though I cannot list them, I would like to recognize all of those achievements.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderfully gifted musician.

WELCOMING OLDRICH KULHÁNEK TO CHICAGO

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome the world-renowned artist, Oldrich Kulháněk, to my home city of Chicago to exhibit his drawings and prints.

Mr. Kulháněk's work is displayed in Chicago's Art Institute, the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, Prague's National Gallery and in more than twenty other of the world's most prestigious museums.

Mr. Kulháněk's dedication to his work came at a high personal cost. His conviction that "the artist should reveal the pretence (or lies) of the establishment, unmasking what is happening to man a showing how man is manipulated and dehumanized" led to his arrest in 1971 by the Czechoslovak Secret Police. He was accused of "disgracing the representatives of communist countries," with depictions of Josef Stalin in many of the prints he created from 1968 through 1971—an offense that led to a charge of sedition.

Mr. Kulháněk spent a month in jail on this charge, and he was interrogated every 14 days for 2 years afterward. Although the laws under which he was charged were revoked by the president, his work was not immune from the government's hand.

In a scene the artist has described as "Kafkaesque," eleven of his prints stood trial in a Prague Local Court and were sentenced to destruction. He was forbidden to show his work or to collaborate with publishers. Despite this artistic exile he continued to create. Many of his pieces were shown illegally under a pseudonym or smuggled to European countries for exhibition.

But today the Czech Republic celebrates Oldrich Kulháněk. He was commissioned to design the new Czech Banknotes, and was one of the principal designers of new Czech stamps, including one depicting President Václav Klaus.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to welcome Oldrich Kulháněk to Chicago and I thank him for his fine work and commitment to art and freedom of expression.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN RINALDI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Rinaldi, for the gift of over twenty-five years of laughter and community service to Northeast Ohio.

After graduating from Ohio State University, John moved back to Cleveland and began working at Cowell and Hubbard Jewelers. He

soon met Dick Blake who, recognizing John's comic talents, introduced him to "Big Chuck" Schodowski. "Big Chuck" invited John to do guest spots on his late-night Hoolihan and Big Chuck Show. In 1979, the Big Chuck and Lil' John Show was born when Hoolihan moved on, and a local legend was born. For the ensuing twenty-eight years "Lil' John" has delighted Northeast Ohio with his unique wit.

Hardly one to contain his exuberance, "Lil' John" has volunteered countless hours of community service to and has helped raised funds for local organizations. John has won numerous accolades for his commitment to Northeast Ohio's success.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Emmy Award winner and Broadcaster Hall of Fame inductee "Lil' John" Rinaldi. His humor has been an invaluable gift to Northeast Ohio, and his efforts to create a healthier and more vibrant Northeast Ohio are appreciated by all.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND IDA R. MIRANDA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Ida R. Miranda. Reverend Miranda is a woman who has always placed her faith and confidence in the Lord.

Reverend Miranda was born in Corentyne, Guyana, South America, the ninth child of Richard Leonard and Rosalind King. She received her education in Guyana and went on to work as a teacher in Guyana Public Schools.

Reverend Miranda and her husband, Frank Miranda (deceased) migrated to the United States in 1962. She proceeded to continue her education attending Elizabeth Seton College and graduating with an Associate's Degree in Accounting. In 2000, she earned a Bachelor's Degree from the College of New Rochelle and a Certificate Degree from the New York Theological Seminary. Reverend Miranda was employed by A&T Importers for 25 years and she later worked for the James A. Cole Company.

Reverend Miranda is a longstanding member of the historic Berean Baptist Church of Brooklyn. It was there she was ordained a minister and where she currently serves as an Associate Minister. She a Senior Sunday School Teacher and sits on the Board of Trustees. Reverend Miranda loves to work with children and for many years has served as a counselor for the Berean Youth Lay League.

Reverend Miranda served on the Board of East New York's Diagnostic and Treatment Center as well as the Board of Leadership Council which offers assistance to the Cypress Day Care Center. In addition to her ministry, Reverend Miranda serves as the Treasurer of my Women's Caucus and volunteers her time as a Tax Aide for the AARP Foundation.

Reverend Miranda is the mother of Marcelle, Mark, Pamela and Paul and a proud grandmother of five.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize all of the good works of Reverend Ida R. Miranda who believes in her community and

works tirelessly both in the U.S. and Guyana to further her ministry as a wise and caring counselor to all.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful woman for her kindness and compassion.

CONGRATULATING PRESA COMMUNITY CENTER FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Presa Community Center on 30 years of outstanding service to the Southside community of San Antonio.

In 30 years, the Presa Community Center has grown from a small collaborative effort between five local churches able to lend a hand to a few needy families to an organization with the ability to help hundreds of people daily. The Presa Community Center has successfully developed multi-faceted programs for our community, including educational enrichment programs for students, emergency food and clothing assistance for families, free tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Program, and many senior programs like coordinated transportation to medical appointments, activities and food assistance, just to name a few.

Just in the past year, Presa Community Center has developed three innovative programs to provide additional services to the community of South San Antonio. One is Project Drive to Live which takes court officials directly into the classrooms with senior and junior high students to address underage drinking and driving under the influence. The second program is designed to keep fourth through sixth grade students in school by building a support network for children and their parents with volunteer mentors and staff. The third program brings the services of the Presa Community Center directly into the community by teaming up trained volunteers with families in need to help locate available resources and become financially stable.

The successes of the Presa Community Center are a result of effective partnership with many community organizations and local governments including United Way, University of Incarnate Word, Presa Real, San Antonio Independent School District, Alamo Area Council of Governments, Warm Spring Rehabilitation Hospital, and San Antonio City and Bexar County officials.

Congratulations to the Presa Community Center and all of the partners that have been vital to the development of this community resource. As a resident of South San Antonio, I would like to thank the Presa Community Center, its partner organizations, and all the hard working staff for their 30 years of dedication to the community and I look forward to many more years of continued work in our community.

SBA VETERANS' PROGRAMS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2366, the SBA Veterans' Programs Act of 2007. This legislation will assist our soldiers when they return home with opportunities and information about starting a small business.

More than a million and a half men and women have answered the call to serve their country since 2001. They interrupted their careers, put their families economic security at risk, and face big personal challenges upon returning home.

I recently visited Iraq and Afghanistan. That trip gave me an even greater appreciation for the significant sacrifices our soldiers must make and must cope with for the rest of their lives. If our soldiers faced mortal danger every day abroad, let us help them have economic security when they return home.

It isn't just the veteran who makes the sacrifice, their families do as well: their parents, their spouses, their children, girlfriends and boyfriends and siblings. They give up so much in defense of our country.

It is our job, as Members of Congress, to make sure that our Nation lives up to its commitment to our veterans. It is a simple pact we have made with our troops—and one we are obligated to fulfill: after they have sacrificed to serve our country on the battlefield, we must do all we can to serve them here at home. The cost of any war must include caring for the warrior.

This legislation helps our veterans get started with business opportunities in their communities. It does so by providing grants, information services, and personal assistance to help veterans evaluate business opportunities; increasing the number of veteran business outreach centers around the country, and encouraging further assistance to women veterans.

Countless soldiers are returning from their tours of duty with new confidence and skills developed during their time in the military. This SBA program will help to ensure that those new abilities are put to good use when they return to civilian life.

This bill because it is the right thing to do for those who have given so much but also because it will directly impact Vermont and every state around the country. Ninety-seven percent of all Vermont firms are small businesses. My office has been involved in helping the Vermont Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) run business readiness classes for veterans. The Vermont SBDC is the primary small business assistance resource sought out by small business clients, lenders, government agencies and other economic development partners. The Vermont SBDC is the keystone in a statewide business assistance infrastructure tying together all appropriate resources and serving as a "one-stop" gateway and clearinghouse to serve small businesses' needs. Drawing on collaborative relationships among service providers, Vermont SBDC leverages economic development resources of all kinds for advancement of small businesses, growing the local economy.

Roughly 6 percent of deployed soldiers have small businesses depending on them. Veterans face a number of unique challenges, from increasing lengths and number of deployments overseas, to translating their military experience into business ventures. Yet, there is a lack of substantive programs to help these businesses survive through deployment, and to assist veterans returning home. This program is designed to meet current, real-time needs of people on active duty in business who now need to leave for protracted periods, or for those who have just come back and really "need" to do something new with their lives.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2366.

A TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS MCARTHUR NELSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor to the work and achievements of Douglas McArthur Nelson. Douglas, a Brooklyn transplant, is a native of Eau Gallie, FL. Upon his arrival to Brooklyn, he attended Junior High School in East New York, Brooklyn, and was later recruited by New York City Public School's legendary football coach Moe Finkelstein at Thomas Jefferson High. Douglas was the star running back on the varsity team that won the P.S.A.L. He was later a starting fullback for 3 years at the University of Iowa.

Douglas McArthur Nelson began his career in law enforcement for the Iowa Department of Corrections and Parole. He transferred those skills to Crisis Intervention, Addiction Counseling, and Juvenile Habilitation. He was able to enhance his talent for leadership during his 20 years of active involvement in church and community services in both Cedar Rapids and Iowa City.

Douglas McArthur Nelson returned to Brooklyn 16 years ago and has continued to fulfill his mission for human services in Crisis Intervention, Addiction and Substance Abuse Counseling, Employee Mentoring, Coaching and Leadership Development for a large treatment facility.

Douglas McArthur Nelson currently serves as the Program Director for the Berean Community Family Life Center, BCFLC, which was created as a non-profit community development corporation by the historic Berean Baptist Church in Brooklyn.

Douglas McArthur Nelson left the private sector in July of 2006 to work for the Berean Baptist Church's First Lady Angela Farr Griffin, the Executive Director of the BCFLC and Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr., who is the President of American Baptist Churches, Pastor of Berean and President of the BCFLC's Board of Directors. Douglas is the Chairman of the Deacon Ministry of Berean Baptist Church and is active with the Men's Caucus for the Unity Democratic Club.

Douglas McArthur Nelson is strong, gentle and devoted husband to Lynn and father of Ruperta, Denise, and Adrian. His 5-year-old granddaughter has lovingly dubbed him "the weakest link." He is an avid gardener, poet, and artist.